[4th August 1955

Unhealthy areas in Tanjore district.

* 1901 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the places that are declared as 'unhealthy areas' in Tanjore district due to filaria infection; and

(*b*) the action taken to eradicate the disease?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"(*a*) No area in Tanjore district has been declared as 'unhealthy' due to filaria infection. Certain areas in the district, have been included in the list of areas where there is risk of filaria to enable the Government servants residing therein to get special interest-free advance towards the purchase of mosquito nets for themselves and their families. A list[a] of such areas is placed on the table of the House.

"(*b*) The Regional Malaria Organization, Tanjore, conducts filaria surveys in the district, prepares schemes of control and recommends them to the local bodies concerned for adoption. So far, nineteen local bodies in the district have adopted anti-filarial schemes with one-third grants from State funds. More comprehensive control measures will be undertaken under the National Filaria Control Programme of the Government of India in which this State is participating."

9-10 a.m. SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—"From the list placed on the table of the House, it is found that there are forty-one places including the headquarter town of Tanjore where there is risk of filaria. May I request the Hon. Minister to look to the provision of a proper drainage system to fight filaria?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"No doubt the sheet anchor of control for filaria is the provision of proper drainage. But failing that, we can take temporary anti-larval measures, which have been found to be fairly successful. Local bodies which take up anti-filarial schemes will get one-third grant from the Government."

SRI C. KANDASAMY :—"The forty-one places included in the list placed on the table includes almost all the municipalities and major panchayats in the district. That means that in all the towns, there is the risk of filaria. I want to know whether the Hon. Minister will take special steps to check this disease."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"A survey has been made and this State has agreed to participate in the National Filaria Control Programme of the Government of India."

SRI S. THINAKARASAMY THEVAR :—"May I know whether it is a fact that in spite of the enormous efforts made by the Government to eradicate this disease, the result has not come up to the expectations of the Government and, if so, will the

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[a] Printed as Appendix on page 474 infra.

Government take some measures to eradicate the disease by devoting special attention appointing special staff for the purpose?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Government propose to start one control unit and two survey units during the period of the Second Five-Year Plan, and in the third Five-year plan, we will have a graded scheme, and that will effectively put an end to this epidemic."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" What is the exact incidence of filaria in Tanjore town with reference to the population there?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" It is said that interest-free advance is given to Government servants residing in places where there is risk of filaria for purchase of mosquito nets. The risk of filaria is not due to any fault of the Government servants, but because of the locality in which they live. The word ' advance ' implies that the persons should apply for it, and an advance is always a burden on those who take it. May I request the Hon. Minister to convert the advance into a subsidy?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Use of mosquito nets is a preventive. So interest-free advances are given to Government servants for the purchase of mosquito nets for themselves and their families."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" The schemes taken up by local bodies with the one-third grant given by the Government are found to be so utterly ineffective that one is altogether helpless about the cure of filaria. May I know when the National Filaria Control Programme will be put into operation, so that people may entertain some hopes or illusions about it?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The programme will be taken up shortly. Three of the municipalities on the West Coast will be selected first for this work."

Cultivable lands assigned to the ex-Ruler of Pudukottai.

* 1902 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state how many acres of cultivable lands were assigned to the ex-Ruler of Pudukottai by the State Government after merger?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Twelve acres and eleven cents of lands appurtenant to the Residency and the New Palace were assigned to the Ruler of Pudukottai after the merger."